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 No. XXVIII.

Hints on the Etymology of certain English words, and on their affinity to words in the languages of different European, Asiatic, and American (Indian) nations, in a letter from Dr. Barton to Dr. Thomas Beddoes.

Read Oct. 21st, 1803.

DEAR SIR,

YOU were pleased to observe, that you take much interest in my inquiries concerning Indian dialects. It is partly on this account, but much more from the attention which it is well known you have devoted to the subject of etymology and language, that I trouble you with this letter.

In the course of my inquiries into the languages of the Americans, I have discovered many instances of affinity between the words of Asiatic and American nations, and those of the English. These affinities are sometimes very striking. Of themselves, they have, I think, some value: but when they are taken in connection with innumerable other facts, they seem to establish this important point, which I have not a doubt will, ultimately, be the opinion of all philosophers, either that all the existing nations of the earth are specifically the same, or (for I do not positively contend, with Blumenbach and Camper, that all mankind constitute but *one species*), that the ancestors of all the present races of men, were once much more intimately associated together than they are at present.

In adducing the words (or rather a small portion of them) to which I have alluded, I do not deem it necessary to be very methodical. I shall distribute them into three heads, viz. nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

SECTION I.

1. Tinder. "Any thing eminently inflammable placed to catch fire." Dr. Johnson derives this word from the Saxon.

In the language of the Irish, *Tinne*, and in the Erse of Scotland, *Teine*, is fire. The Welsh, the Cornwallians, and the people of Little-Brittany, call it *Tan*. These are all of the Celtic stock. Other Celts of the old world call it *Tan*, and *Dar*. Several of the North-American tribes unite the two last mentioned words into one. Thus the Delawares, or Lenne-Lennape, call fire, *Tendeu*, *Tindey*, *Tindai*, *Taénda*, and Twendaigh: the Pampticoughs, *Tinda*, and the Sankikani (as early as 1633) *Tinteywoe*.—In the language of the Nanticokes (a North-American tribe), *Tind* is fire. This is precisely the English verb, to kindle, to set on fire.

2. Peat or Turf. Of this well known substance, so common in the northern parts of the old and new world, where it is used as fuel, Johnson has not attempted to give us the derivation. But I find, that the Naudowessies, or Sioux-Indians, of North-America, call fire *Peta*.

N. B. The language of this great tribe abounds in Finnic words.

3. Morass, a fen, bog, or moor. According to Johnson, from the French *Marais*. Perhaps, however, this word may be better traced to the Permian word for the sea, *Morae*, or to the Gipsy-word *Moros*, the sea.

4. Map, a geographical picture. From *Mappa*, Low-Latin. Johnson. Several of the Asiatic tribes call the earth, *Ma*. Such are the Permians, above mentioned, different tribes of Vogoulitchi, or Vouguls, who inhabit the Oural-mountains. The Gipsy name (or rather one of their names) is *Poo*, or *Pu*. Does it not seem, that the Latin *Mappa* and the English map, are composed of the *Ma* and the *Poo*, which I have mentioned? But what is remarkable, the Chilise of South-America actually call the earth *Mapu*.

5. Valley, a low ground, a hollow between hills. *Vallee*, French; *Vallis*, Latin.—The Kartalini, one of the nations of Mount-Caucasus, call a valley, *Velee*: the Miamis, of North-America, *Walaich-kach-ki-kai*.

6. Star. One of the luminous bodies of the heavens. The Persian and Bucharian word is *Stara*: the Aganske, *Sturee*. The Osetti call it *Stela*, which is very similar to the Latin.

7. Cascade, a cataract, a water-fall. From the French *Cascade*, and the Italian, *Cascata*.—In the language of the Chee-rakee-Indians of North-America, rain is *Kasca*.

8. Storm, a tempest. This word seems properly enough referred to the Welsh, the Saxon, the Dutch, and the Italian. In the language of the Tchiochonski, Finlanders, or Original Finns, inhabiting the borders of the Gulph of Finland, the word is *Storma*.—It may be worth observing in this place, that the Tchiochonski also call a storm, *Sea*, which may have some relation to the English word Sea.

9. Pond, a small pool or lake of water. “Supposed to be the same as pound, Saxon, to shut up.” Johnson. *Paane* is water in the language of the people of Bengal and Decan.

10. Cot, Cottage. From the Saxon and the Welsh. In the language of the Carelians and the Olonetzi, two Finnic nations, *Kodee* is a house: in that of the Laplanders, *Kote*; in that of the Esthonians, *Kodda*, and in the dialects of three tribes of Ostiaks, *Kat*, or *Kaut*.

11. Door, the gate of a house. From the Saxon, *Dora*, and the Erse, *Dorris*. Johnson. In the language of the Celts of Little-Britany, and in that of the Welsh, it is *Dor*. In the Persian and Bucharian, *Dar*, or *Daur*.

12. Court, a pallace, hall or chamber, &c. *Cour*, French, *Koert*, Dutch; *Curtis*, Low Latin. Johnson. In the dialects of the Zhiryané and the Permians, it is *Karta*. Both these nations are evidently of the Finnic stock.

13. Kennel, a cot for dogs. *Chenil*, French. Johnson. In the language of the Albanians, residing in Dalmatia, and in some of the islands of the Greek-Archeipelago, *Ken* is a dog.

14. Puppy; a whelp. *Poupee*, French. Johnson. In the language of the Kottowi, a nation living on the Jenisea in Siberia, *Pup* is a child. *Papoo*s and *Pappooz* are the words for a child, in the dialects of the Piankashaws and Narragansetts of North-America.

15. Cat, a quadruped. *Katz*, Teuton. *Chat*, French. Johnson. Why not the Saxon? *Kat*. *Kéto*, in a dialect of the Lesghis. *Kate* in that of one of the Vouglul tribes. *Katoo* in the Armenian and Immeretian. *Keeta* and *Kata* in the lan-

guage of the Kartalini. *Kot* in that of a tribe of the Toungusians. Other affinities might be pointed out.

16. Cur, a dog. From the Dutch *Korre*. Johnson. The Tchiochonski and the Carelians call a dog, *Koera*, and the Olonetzi, another Finnic tribe, *Koero*: the Cheerake-Indians, *Keera*.

17. Nap, slumber, a short sleep. From the Saxon to sleep. Johnson. *Naap* is sleep in the language of the Ingushevvtzi and Tooschetti, who dwell on Mount-Caucasus. *Nippa-loo* in the language of the Sawannoo, or Shawnese. In the language of the Nanticokes, another American tribe, *Nip-paan* is to sleep.

18. Mucus, snot, &c. Evidently from the Latin *Mucus*. But in the language of the inhabitants of Tamul, *Mooka*, and in that of the Varugdians *Mookoo** is the nose. The Malabar word is *Moko*.

19. Pen, a quill, or feather. This is most naturally referred to the Latin, *Penna*. A tribe of Ostiaks call it *Pooni*. I cannot help observing, in this place, that a tribe of Koriaks, and the Tchouktchi or Tchuktschi, call a bird *Galla*. I need not remind you of the affinity of this word to the Latin *Gallus*, and *Galla*.

20. Egg. Johnson refers this to the Saxon and the Erse. It is remarkable, that the Lumpocolli, living between the rivers Jenisea and Obe, call an egg, *Eg!*

21. Custard, a kind of sweetmeat. From the Welsh, *Cwsturd*. Johnson. The Katahba, or Catauba Indians of North-America, call bread *Koostauh* and *Coostaro*. It is a fact, that there are many Celtic words in the language of this (now almost extinct) American tribe. They call the earth *Manno* and *Mannooh* (evidently Celtic), which may, perhaps, serve to illustrate a passage in the *Germania* of Tacitus. "Celebrant (Germani) " carminibus antiquis (quod unum apud illos memoriae " et annalium genus est) *Tuistonem* deum terra editum, et filium *Mannum*, originem gentis conditoresque. Manno tris filios assignant," &c. &c.† *Tuetsch* or *Tuets* is the earth in the dialect of three tribes of Semoyads. *Tue* is the Chiles word.

* This is a Malabar dialect.

† C. Cornelii Taciti de Situ, Moribus, et Populis Germaniæ Libellus,

22. Salt. Gothick, Saxon, Latin, French. This word, with inconsiderable variation, is preserved among many nations of the old world. Thus, the Tchiochonski call it, *Soola*, *Sola*, and *Subla*: the Esthonians, *Sool*: the Olonetzi, *Soloo*: the Permians and a tribe of the Ostiaks, *Sol*: the Morduini and the Mokshan, *Sal*: a tribe of the Vouguls, *Sal*. One tribe of the Semoyads call it *See*.

23. Mattock, a kind of toothed instrument to pull up weeds. *Mattuk*, Saxon. Johnson. In the language of the Mahicans, a North-American tribe, *Matook*, *Metooque*, and *Mah-tahhun* signify wood. *Mittic*, *Metic*, *Meteek* are either trees or wood in the dialect of the Chippewas. The Algonkin words are the same.

24. Harrow, an instrument of agriculture. *Charroue*, French, and *Harcke*, a rake, German. Johnson. It is easy to make a much nearer approach to the original of the word than the great English Lexicographer has made. This instrument is called *Hara* in the language of the Tchiochonski, and *Harau* in that of the Cornwallians.

25. Mall, a kind of beater or hammer, a stroke or blow. *Malleus*, Latin. Johnson. *Mal* is one of the words for an axe in the language of the Laplanders.

26. Cade, a barrel. *Cadus*, Latin. Johnson.—Johnson seems not to have known, that the Celtic word is *Kad**. This is also the name in the language of one tribe of the Vouguls; and in Hebrew.

27. Canister, a small basket, &c. *Canistrum*, Latin. Johnson.—The Seneca-Indians of North-America call a cup, *Kanista*.

28. Pear, a fruit. *Poire*, French, *Pyrum*, Latin. Johnson. In the Hebrew, *Peree*, and in the Syrian, *Peero*, is fruit.

29. Oak, a tree. *Ac*, *Æc*, Saxon.—Johnson. I am quite contented with this; but I must observe that the Lumpocolli (the very tribe who have the English word Egg) call this tree, *Oksi*, or *Oki*. *Oaks* is the name of the Elm among the Tuscaroras and Oneidas.

30. Bark, the rind or covering of a tree. *Barck*, Danish, Johnson.—*Barka* is one of the Gipsej words.

31. Book, a volume. *Boc*, Saxon, “supposed from *boc*, a beach, because they wrote on *beechn* boards; as *liber*, in Latin, from the rind of a tree.” Johnson. In the language of the Curdi, or people of Curdistan, *Pak*, is the leaf of a tree. We find this word among the Americans. Thus, the Delaware name for a leaf (*folium*) is *Wuni-pak*, or Wunee-pauk: the Mahiccan word, Waunee-pockq. Here there can be no doubt about the affinity of the Asiatic and American words: for a part of the American is *Pak*, which is identically the same as the Curdistan word*. Among the Americans, as well as the Asiatics (and I suppose most other nations), we find numerous instances of the change of P into B, and of B into P. Thus, the Pottawatameh, who speak a dialect of the Delaware, call a leaf Tago-búc. And thus, you see, that the Saxon word, *Boc*, with very little variation, is preserved in America. I am not afraid, that you will deem this a “risible absurdity,” or that you will say what Johnson says of Skinner, “how easy it is to “play the fool, under a shew of literature and deep researches.” I am of opinion, that etymology (though it has often been abused) is susceptible, in innumerable instances, of the greatest certainty. The very word which I have mentioned above, Wunee-pauk, is a proof of this. About the latter division of the word, we cannot but be satisfied: but what are we to make of the former part, or Wunee? Hitherto, I have not been able to discover that this is the name for a leaf in the language of any tribe or nation of the old world. But, *Vaunoo* is the trunk or stem of a vegetable in the language of a tribe of Semoyads.

32. Cap, the garment that covers the head. *Cap*, Welsh; *Cappe*, Sax. *Cappe*, Germ. *Cappe*, Fr. *Cappa*, Ital. *Capa*, Span. *Kappe*, Danish and Dutch; *caput*, a head, Latin.—Johnson. To this very satisfactory history of the word, permit me to add, that *Kapa* is a cap in the dialect of the Kubeshanians, who inhabit Mount-Caucasus.

33. Under this first head of nouns, I shall add only one other word: and this is not an English one. In the Scottish dialect, *Bearn* is a child. This word, I think, is Saxon. It is also

* See my New Views of the origin of the tribes and nations of America. Comparative Vocabularies. p. 75, 76. Philadelphia: 1798.

Barn in the language of the Icelanders, in the dialect of the ancient Dacians; and in Swedish. Thus much has been observed by others. It is a curious circumstance, that *Birna* is a pregnant woman in the language of the Jolofs, one of the blackest of all the African nations. I have found Asiatic words in this language, and one or two South-American words*.

SECTION 2.

1. Dank, damp, humid, moist, wet. Skinner derives this from the German *tuncken*, to dip something into water, &c. *Dan* is water in the language of the people of New-Guinea, and *Don* in the languages of the Osetti and Dugori, on Caucasus. The Wyandots, or Hurons of North-America, call a river Yan-Dank-keh, and Yan-Daun-kee-ah. The two Asiatic nations, just mentioned, likewise call a river, *Don*.—The English words, Tank, a large cistern, or bason, and Tankard, a vesseel to hold water, are unquestionably of Asiatic original. The word *Tank* is used in India at this very day. There is a river in Pennsylvania, the Indian name of which is Tunk-hanna.

2. Naval, belonging to ships. The Kartalini, whom I have already mentioned, and among whom we have found a specimen of an English word, call a ship or vessel, *Navee*.

3. Murky, dark, cloudy, wanting light. From the Danish *Morck*, Johnson. *Merkot* is night in the Susdalien dialect. †

4. Democratical. I think it has escaped the notice of the English Dictionary-makers, that *Demo* is the name for men, or people (*homines, populus*) in the language of the old Persians. I find a great number of English, French, and American (Indian) words in this old language, which Sir William Jones has shown to be Sanscrit. Philosophers will ultimately repose in the belief, that Asia “has been the principal foundery of the human kind;” and Iràn, or Persia, will be considered as

* See New Views, &c. Preliminary Discourse, p. 75.

† “*Susdaliensis* dialectus variis graecis barbarisque verbis a mercaturam in Thracia facientibus corrupta, ita fere ad Rusicam linguam se habet, uti Iudaeo-Germanica ad Germanicam.” Pallas.

one of the cradles from which the species took their departure, to people the various regions of the earth.

5. Peaked, sharp, acuminated. I do not find this word (which is much in use among my countrymen) in Johnson, who, however, gives us the substantive Peak, and the verb to Peak. You will observe, that Johnson is not satisfied with his own account of the verb. "We say (these are his words) a "withered man has a sharp face; Falstaff dying, is said to have "a nose as sharp as a pen: from this observation, a sickly man "is said to *peak* or grow acuminated, from *pique*." We say (in the United-States) of a person whose face is contracted by sickness, he looks *peaked*.

Paká in the language of the Indians of Moulthan residing at Astrachan, and *Pukeetoo* in that of the Andieskie residing on Mount-Caucasus, signify sharp.

6. Sharp, keen, piercing, not obtuse, &c. From the Saxon and the Dutch.—Johnson. You may smile, but I will venture to inform you, that *Scharp* is an axe or hatchet, in the language of a tribe of the Vouguls.

7. Tiny; little, small, puny. *Tint, Tynd*, Danish.—Johnson, who says it is a burlesque word. Why so? *Teena*, or *Tina*, signifies small, or little in the dialects of two tribes of the Lesghintzi, or Lesghis, who inhabit Mount-Caucasus. The dialects of the Lesghis are arranged by Professor Pallas immediately before the Tchiochonski and other Finnic languages. There are many Lesghis words, nearly pure, in the languages of the Americans.

8. Big, large, proud, swelling, great in spirit, lofty, brave. "This word (Johnson observes) is of uncertain or unknown etymology." Both Junius and Skinner have endeavoured to arrive at some certainty on the subject. But their researches, in this instance, have been extremely futile. I tread on ticklish ground. In the language of the Toungusians who inhabit the eastern coast of the sea of Baikal, *Biga* is God. In the dialect of other Toungusians, and in the language of the Tschapogirri, who inhabit the eastern bank of the river Jenisea, the word is *Buga*. The word, *Bog*, which signifies God in the language of the Russians, Poles, and other Slavonic nations, is nearly allied

to our English word. Pallas says *Big* is corrupt Russian (malarossica.) It is a fact, that in the languages of many rude nations, the same word not unfrequently signifies both God and large, great, or mighty. This is remarkably the case among the American Indians. In the languages of different tribes, the same word not unfrequently means God, and great. Nay, more than this: it is easy to adduce instances of the same word being used in Asia for God, and in America for great. I shall mention a single instance. Certain tribes inhabiting the peninsula of Kamtschatka call God, *Kootcha*: now, *Kutche*, and *Kitchi*, are very prevailing words, among the Americans, for great or powerful. And it is remarkable, that they often use it as an epithet for God: thus, *Kitchi-Manitou*, &c. the Great-Spirit, in the language of the Chippewas, &c.

SECTION 3.

1. To Chirp, to make a cheerful noise. "This, says Johnson, seems apparently corrupted from cheer-up." This is certainly a forced derivation. I think he would have been better pleased with the one I am to offer. In the language of the Ostiaks, of Narim, *Churp* is a bird. The Ch is to be sounded like the Chi of the Greeks and the Ch of the Germans. I consider all the Ostiaks as having a Finnic original. Unquestionably, a very great number of English words are Finnic, as are also perhaps a still greater number in the languages of the North-American tribes.

2. To Bouse, to drink lavishly; to tope. *Buysen*, Dutch. Johnson. This word and the adjective *Bousy* are to be met with among very old English writers. Spencer speaks of the "Bousing can." The word is evidently of Asiatic original. Perhaps, it may be referred to the Asiatic word *Boo*, water, from whence I suppose the American words, *Bee*, *Beeh*, *Beh*, water. But I can furnish you with something much less equivocal. According to Mr. Bruce, the Abyssinians make from a species of millet, an intoxicating drink, which they call *Bousa*. Josaphat Barbaro, a Venetian, tells us, as early as 1436, that the Tartars whom he visited, drink a kind of beer

called *Bossa*. And Dr. Forster informs us, that “at this present time they have in Russia an inebriating liquor, prepared from millet, which is called *Busa*, and is very heady.”*

3. To *Tope*, to drink hard; to drink to excess. *Toper*, a drunkard. “*Topff*, German, an earthen pot; *Toppen*, Dutch, to be mad. Skinner prefers the latter etymology.” Johnson. I am far from being satisfied with this, and I think something more satisfactory may be offered. In the language of the Gipsies, *Tepaoo* is to drink. You are not ignorant that the language of these vagrants has a most evident and intimate affinity with that of the nations of Hindustan.

4. To butcher; to kill. The Mandshuri, or Manshour—Tartars, call death *Bootschere*, or *Butchere*. It may not be amiss to observe, in this place, that *Mort* is death in the language of the people of Bengal. How nearly similar is this to the Celtic words, *Mar*, *Mor*, *Mart*; the Latin *Mors*; the Italian *Morte*; the French, *Mor*, &c.!!

5. To *Ram*, to drive with violence, as with a battering ram. I find nothing satisfactory relative to the etymology of this word, in our English dictionaries. After attending to the following, I hope you will not think I am forcing the subject. In the language of the Tchiokonski, *Ramo*, and in that of the Esthonians (both of whom I have often mentioned) *Ramm* and *Rammo* are the words for our English force and strength (*Vis*, *Robur*). *Rammo* is also the Esthonian word for power (*Potentia*).

As I know not what value you may attach to the preceding mite to extend our knowledge of the original of English words, I shall not, at present, trouble you with any more of a similar kind. Permit me, however, to make a few observations, which seem to arise naturally enough out of this investigation.

Many English words do, unquestionably, exist among certain Asiatic nations, and even among the Indian nations of America. As it is difficult, at first sight, to give a very satisfactory

* History of the Voyages and Discoveries made in the North, &c. p. 172, 173. Dublin Edition, 1786. *Busa* is also mentioned by Professor Pallas. He says, the inhabitants of Crim—Tary brew this “intoxicating,” “ill tasted and very strong beer from” Millet, or *Tari*. See Travels through the Southern Provinces of the Russian Empire, in the years 1793, and 1794. Vol. II. p. 360, 388, &c. English translation. London: 1803.

explanation of this fact, superficial inquirers (of whom there is always a large number, particularly in the crowd of those who have written upon the origin of mankind) immediately conclude, either that the affinities are entirely *accidental*, or that they are owing to the commercial intercourse which, at present, subsists between the inhabitants of different parts of the earth. That such affinities are accidental, I am sure that no man in his sober senses, will dare to assert. That they are not to be accounted for from the commercial intercourse which at present subsists between different nations is equally certain. The difficulties which encumber this important subject will vanish, when we extend our inquiries beyond the limited horizon of a few hundred years; and when we suffer ourselves to be relieved from the numerous prejudices, which form as it were our pillow in the cradle. The books of Moses inform us, that mankind were created in Asia. Ever since I have busied myself, and I may add, rendered myself happy, with inquiries into the languages of the Americans, I have ceased to entertain any doubts of the accuracy of the scripture story, so far as regards the Asiatic origin of men, and their dispersion from a common centre. These two great facts, which constitute corner-stones in the history of the species, are supported by the more modern history of nations; and I am persuaded will bear the strictest scrutiny of every research of humanity.

The original of nations may, in many instances, be determined solely by an attention to the languages of mankind. Had the books of Moses perished; had no memorials concerning them escaped the numerous revolutions of our globe; had no traditions concerning the origin of the species been transmitted to us, the researches of philosophers, through the medium of language (such is the pure certainty of science!) would have conducted them to the great historical truth, that Asia has been the cradle of the world. But history much more recent than that of the Jewish lawgiver, kindly comes to our assistance. Thus, not to mention other instances, the Saxon chronicle deduces the first inhabitants of Britain from Armenia. Now, it is a fact, that we find some English words in the language of the Armenians, and in the language of the Kartalini and other Cau-

casian tribes, to which the Armenian is allied. Thus it is easy to conceive, how many Asiatic words (a much greater number than is generally supposed) are still preserved in Britain. They were brought into Britain by the Asiatic colonies; they are still preserved, and will be preserved for a long time, notwithstanding the various admixtures of nations; because languages are the most unperishable of all medals. They are as immortal as the human race.

The Asiatic origin of the Greeks and the Latins has never been called in question. There are many Latin words in the English language. Some of these, I have no doubt, were introduced by the Romans when they conquered and colonized the island. But a much greater number, I suspect, are derived by the ancient inhabitants of Britain from the same tree which supplied the Romans with its fruit. An attention to the following circumstances will render this not a little probable.

We find Latin words among many of the rude and other nations of Asia, who are not known to have had any communication with the Romans. Some instances of this kind I have painted out in a former part of this letter. But we find Latin words among the Indians of America: and I think there is no good foundation for suspecting, that the Romans had ever visited, much less planted colonies in, America. I will give an instance or two. In the language of the Delawares, *Pane* is bread. This is almost pure Latin. It is actually pure Italian, Neapolitan, and Spanish. But whence, it has been asked, did the Americans derive this word? Doubtless, from the same tree which, planted in the soil of Asia, has spread its branches, or diffused its fruit, to every region of the earth. In the language of the Curdes, of Curdistan, *Pan* is bread. This language is nearly allied to the Persian. Thunberg informs us, that the Japanese verb to bake bread is *Pan-jakv*. Now, I have shown, that there are many Curde and Japanese words in the different dialects of America. The same Delawares call a dog, *Mé-kanne*, which is nearly Latin, but more nearly still Italian and Neapolitan. In this instance, also, we can trace the word to Asia, for different tribes of Semoyads call a dog, *Kanang*, *Kanak*, and *Konak*; and the Karassini call it *Kannak*.

It is unnecessary to adduce other instances of this kind.— Many more might be adduced, and will be mentioned in the Second Part of my *New Views*, which is preparing for the press. If those which I have mentioned should be deemed of any importance to you, I shall, in a future letter, communicate another collection. I am well aware, that these inquiries are remote from our immediate professional pursuits; but they are not remote from our inquiries as naturalists. The study of the physical history, that is of the figure, complexion, &c., of mankind, should go hand in hand with a comparison of the languages of the earth. The most finished *Anthropologia*, such an one as Pallas could give us, will be constructed, in a considerable degree, upon the affinities of languages.

I am, Dear Sir,

with much respect,

Your Friend, &c.

BENJAMIN SMITH BARTON.

Thomas Beddoes, }
M. D. F. R. S. }

Philadelphia, October 20th, 1803.

POSTSCRIPT.

You will observe, that the preceding words in the languages of the Americans are written in two different kinds of letters, *viz.* Roman and Italic. The former, which are fewest in number, were all collected by myself: the latter are either taken from printed books or have been collected for me by my friends, in different parts of the United-States. Most of the words in the Asiatic and other languages, are taken from the *Vocabularia Comparativa* of Professor Pallas. It is much to be regretted, that this very important work has not been

completed. I have seen the First and Second parts, which were printed at Petersburg, in 1786, and 1789. Neither the African nor American languages have any place in these volumes. My own labours have now put me in possession of good specimens of at least one hundred American dialects, and several African ones. These may, at some future period, be offered to the public, as a supplement to the work begun by Catherine and Pallas.



No. XXIX.

Astronomical Observations made by Jose Joaquin de Ferrer, chiefly for the Purpose of determining the Geographical Position of various Places in the United States, and other Parts of North America. Communicated by the Author.

Translated from the Spanish, and read at different times.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS
ON THE ATLANTIC BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES.

	Latitudes.			Longitudes				
	°	'	''	°	'	''		
Cape Hatteras.	†	35	14	30	75	38	15	§
Cape Henlopen light-house.	‡	38	47	16	75	10	03	§
Cape May.	†	38	56	46	74	56	54	§
Germantown market-house.	*	40	02	29				
Coast to the North of Cape-May.	‡	39	39	00	74	16	35	§
Idem.	‡	39	52	40	74	12	15	§
Idem.	‡	40	07	30	74	12	15	§
Highlands.					74	07	24	§
Town of New-Haven.	‡	41	17	07	73	4	53	§
Town of Guilford.	†	41	18	16	72	51	00	§
(Falcon) Falkland-Island.	‡	41	14	50	72	50	15	§
New-London, Light-house.	‡	41	21	08	72	12	15	§
Light-house, on the Easternmost point of Long-Island.	†	41	04	30	71	53	39	§
E. Hampton, in Long-Island.	†	41	00	00	72	15	50	§
Rocky Way in Idem.	†	40	28	00	73	12	55	§
Battery at New-York.	*	40	42	06	74	07	45	

† Latitude observed at sea, at some distance from the parallel, and calculated from a course of 4 or 5 hours from the time of observing.
 ‡ Latitude observed at sea, upon which dependence may be placed, and not differing $\frac{1}{2}$ of a minute from the true lat.
 * Longitude determined by astronomical observations; by the emersions of the first satellite of Jupiter compared with the corresponding ones made in Europe, and by the occultation of stars by the moon's disk.
 § Longitude as referred to New-York, by a chronometer of Arnold.